PRAYING FOR PEACE

The plight of Abid and his family during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan captivated audiences in Singapore, with the recent adaptation of Sandra Lynch's, **A Friendly Fire** at The Substation, Armenian Street.

The story is about how Abid and his family sustain themselves and manage to retain a positive spirit despite the implementation of the Shariyah law. The play directed by Shalaka Ranadive (who runs a theatrical company named WECANDOIT) addressed a topic that has been touched upon by the media but her unique interpretation with a minimalist set contrasted the powerful dialogues giving the performance a dramatic effect.

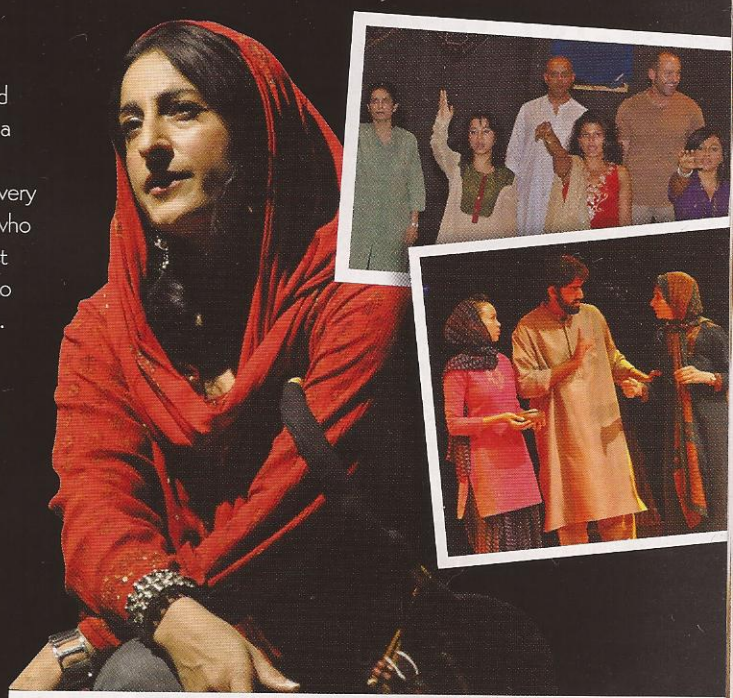
Coupled with a hauntingly background score and excellent light and sound effects the theatre reverberated with emotion, Alternating between smiles, tears and overall admiration for a quality production, the audience was totally absorbed.

The production spearheaded by Monisha Charan (who runs a branding and events company IZAARA) was supported by a very talented group of local actors who worked hard to get the smallest details right including the Pashto accent and cultural mannerisms.

The diversity of characters with different aspects of involvement in the war relayed messages about the global impact of war and rekindled awareness of other sensitive issues such as women's rights across the world.

Overall a refreshing yet thought provoking production mixing humour with reality and leaving the audience moved but not without hope. IS

By **Sunita Sharma**



SPARKLE & SHINE

There is new sparkle in Singapore. Purnima Gupta, a certified gemologist brings India's renowned **"Jewel House"**, originally from the city of the Taj Mahal, to this island country.

Gupta has been a jewellery enthusiast since her childhood in Delhi and pursued a career in gemology and jewellery; working with well-established names there. Later she was married into a reputed family of jewellers in Agra. But soon her husband's business interests brought them to Singapore.

However her passion has never diminished and today she has brought Jewel House to Singapore in collaboration with Guptasons Jewellers of Delhi led by celebrity designer Nitiin Vijay.

Their recent introductory private show at the Tanglin Club raised a toast to an extraordinary array of traditional to modern masterpieces in gold and diamond. Singapore can expect more glitter in the coming dayscourtesy the Jewel House. IS

TASTE THE FLAVOURS OF GEORGIA
GEORGIA
WINE STARTED HERE
Georgia is one of the oldest wine producing regions of the World. The fertile valleys of the South Caucasus, which Georgia straddles, are believed by many archaeologists to be the source of the world's first cultivated grapevines and neolithic wine production, over 7000 years ago. Due to the many, millennia of wine in Georgian history, the traditions of its viticulture are entwined and inseparable with the country's national identity.
With native Georgian grape varietals such as Saperavi, Rkatsiteli, Ojaleshi and many more, experience a different world of wines. Georgian wines are brought to you by Georgian Wine Distributors Pte Ltd from the prestigious wineries of Georgia.
Taste the flavours of Georgia, the birthplace of wine.
Contact David at 81273999 or email him at md@gwd.com.sg
www.gwd.com.sg
Georgian Wine Distributors Pte Ltd
20 Shaw Road #01-04, Ching Shine Industrial Building, Singapore 367956